

Historic Architecture Sourcebook

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Historic Architecture Sourcebook." *The Annals of Iowa* 44 (1978), 329-329.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.11377>

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Historic Architecture Sourcebook, edited by Cyril M. Harris. Columbia University: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1977. \$19.95.

Whether you are a designer or an architect, homeowner or apartment dweller; historian or student, the *Historic Architecture Sourcebook*, edited by C. M. Harris, will become one of your most valuable reference books. It contains many varied architectural terms. One can use its contents the same as a dictionary, just don't expect to find any correct pronunciation keys after the words to be defined. Harris's previous book—*Dictionary of Architecture and Construction* has also excluded pronunciations even though its title says that it is a dictionary. With either book you are still going to need a dictionary alongside—especially for words such as these—*arriere-voussure*, *coelanaglyphic relief*, *ekklesiasterion*, *kubovatoye pokrytiye*, *meshrebeeyeh*, *shatroboye pokrytiye*, *zvonitsa* . . . had enough?

The book makes up for a lack of pronunciation guides with an abundance of over 5,000 terms defined quite clearly and concisely. There are approximately 2,000 alphabetized line drawings and a few photographs. Obviously, Harris has been preparing and collecting these drawings for several years.

Many definitions include more than one drawing per term, as evidenced by the fourteen illustrations alone of a gargoyle. Illustrations of the following terms—conditorium, (p. 130); pendentive bracketing, (p. 407); puteal, (p. 438); sudatorium (p. 512); and umbo (p. 58) are examples of very simple ink drawings as compared to some of the more elaborate full page engravings found throughout the book on such terms as the Empire Style, Louis XV style, and the Ionic order. The drawings enable just about anyone with or without a knowledge of architectural terms to be able to understand the definitions. The editor's decision to use predominantly line drawings emphasizes the salient features of the terms defined.

—Scherrrie Goettsch
Des Moines

The Counties and Courthouses of Iowa, by LeRoy G. Pratt. Mason City: Klipto Printing and Office Supply Company, 1977.

Most Iowans are surprised to learn there are ninety-nine counties on that checkerboard map of their state. That's a lot of counties. Only seven states have more.

This book has been much needed, not just for map locations, which it amply has, but, more importantly, for bringing together all the rich lore of Iowa county histories. The courthouse pictures and descriptions are a happy plus.

LeRoy Pratt of Des Moines somehow has found time, with his wife Louise, to visit every one of Iowa's 101 courthouses, gathering pictures and research-

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